

James E. Mercante  
Yoon S. Han  
RUBIN, FIORELLA & FRIEDMAN LLP  
292 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10017  
(212) 953-2381  
*Attorneys for Petitioner*  
*Frank J. Dieber*

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK  
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT

Civil Action No.: 08 CV 2042

of

FRANK J. DIEBER, as owner of a 1988 20-foot Formula SR1 vessel for Exoneration from or Limitation of Liability.

**ANSWER TO COUNTER CLAIM**

Petitioner.

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FRANK J. DIEBER (hereinafter "Petitioner"), by his attorneys, RUBIN, FIORELLA & FRIEDMAN, LLP, hereby Answers the Counter Claim of Claimant TARA PINAND, upon information and belief, as follows:

**ANSWERING FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

1. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "1" of the Counter Claim.
2. Admits the allegations contained in paragraph "2" of the Counter Claim.
3. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "3" of the Counter Claim.
4. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "4" of the Counter Claim.
5. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "5" of the Counter Claim.

6. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "6" of the Counter Claim.
7. Denied as stated. Additionally, paragraph "7" of the Counter Claim contains conclusions of law, to whit, a responsive pleading is not required. All conclusions of law are appropriately referred to the honorable Court.
8. Denied as stated. Additionally, paragraph "8" of the Counter Claim contains conclusions of law, to whit, a responsive pleading is not required. All conclusions of law are appropriately referred to the honorable Court.
9. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "9" of the Counter Claim.
10. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "10" of the Counter Claim.
11. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "11" of the Counter Claim.

**ANSWERING SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

12. Answering paragraph "12" of the Counter Claim, Petitioner repeats and realleges each and every answer in paragraphs "1" through "11" of the Answer as if set forth at length herein.
13. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "13" of the Counter Claim.
14. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "14" of the Counter Claim.
15. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "15" of the Counter Claim.
16. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph "16" of the Counter Claim.

**AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

**FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

10. The incident alleged in the Claim, which is denied, occurred without the fault, privity or knowledge of Petitioner. Petitioner is therefore entitled to exoneration from, or

limitation of liability, to the value of his vessel in the amount of \$7,500 pursuant to the Limitation of Liability Act of 1851, 46 U.S.C. §30501 *et. seq.*

**SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

11. Assumption of Risk.

**THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

12. If Claimant sustained any injuries, damages, and/or illnesses as alleged in the Claim, which is denied, said injuries, damages, and/or illnesses were caused solely and/or were contributed to by the negligence, fault, want of care, on the part of Claimant or on the part of third-parties for whom Petitioner is not liable.

**FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

13. That the injuries, damages, and/or illnesses alleged to have been sustained by Claimant were caused, in whole or in part, through the culpable conduct of Claimant, without any negligence on the part of Petitioner and without his privity or knowledge and that Petitioner seeks exoneration from liability and/or limitation of liability and/or dismissal or reduction in any recovery that may be had by Claimant in the proportion to the culpable conduct, attributable to Claimant bears to the culpable conduct, which caused said injuries, damages, and/or illnesses.

**FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

14. Claimant has failed to mitigate her damages, if any.

**SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

15. Damages, if any, were the result of the sole negligence of Claimant.

**SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

16. Negligence, if any, on the part of Petitioner, which is denied, was not the

proximate cause of any injuries, damages, and/or illnesses sustained by Claimant.

**EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

17. The Claim fails to state a cause of action upon which relief can be granted.

**NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

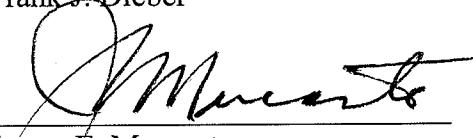
18. Claimant's injuries, damages and/or illnesses, if any, were pre-existing and not caused by Petitioner.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays that the Counter Claim be dismissed and/or that he be exonerated from liability and/or limit any liability to the value of the vessel in the amount of \$7,500 and that he be awarded fees, costs, and for any further relief the court deems just and equitable.

Dated: May 12, 2008  
New York, New York

RUBIN, FIORELLA & FRIEDMAN, LLP  
Attorneys for Petitioner  
Frank J. Dieber

By:

  
James E. Mercante  
Yoon S. Han  
292 Madison Avenue, 11<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, NY 10017  
Telephone No.: 212-953-2381  
Our File No.: 638-10423

To: Barton Barton & Plotkin, LLP  
Attorneys for Claimant  
Angela Norcia  
420 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10170

Foster and Mazzie, LLC  
Attorneys for Claimant  
Tara Pinand  
10 Furler Street  
Totowa, New Jersey 07512